

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-04 (ISO) W

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R 220815Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2150

UNCLAS MUSCAT 0630

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, MU

SUBJECT: OVERSEAS SCHOOLS: NEW FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUSCAT
ENGLISH-SPEAKING SCHOOL

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF MAY 12 CIRCULAR LETTER OUT-
LINING PLANS FOR FUTURE FINANCING OF MUSCAT EMGLISH SPEAKING
SCHOOL. SCHOOL WILL HAVE TO MOVE FROM PRESENT LOCATION, AND
SCHEME ACCEPTED BY BOARD FOR IMPLEMENTATION NEXT SEPTEMBER IS
DESIGNED TO FINANCE NEW PLANT OVER PERIOD OF EIGHT YEARS.

2. OPTIONS PRESENTED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PAYMENT OF ONE-TIME FEE OF R.O. 1,000 (EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT
\$3,000) FOR EACH SEAT TO BE RESERVED. THERE ARE CERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES - E.G. LATE REGISTRATION - UNDER WHICH SUCH
SEAT COULD GO TO SOMEONE ON "WAITING LIST", BUT PAYMENT OF THIS
FEE ESSENTIALLY WOULD GUARANTEE ADMISSION.

(B) PAYMENT OF R.O. 2000 (ABOUT \$6,000) INTEREST FREE LOAN FOR
EACH SEAT TO BE RESERVED. SAME PROVISIONS AS ABOVE RE RESERVED
SPACE. INITIAL SUM WOULD BE REPAYED TO SUBSCRIBER AT END OF EIGHT-
YEAR PERIOD.

(C) FOR NON-SUBSCRIBERS, PREMIUM OF R.O. 50 ADDITIONAL TUITION
WILL BE CHARGED PER TERM PER STUDENT. AT PRESENT FEES ARE
R.O. 125 PER TERM. PAYMENT OF TUITION PREMIUM WOULD NOT GUARANTEE
ACCEPTANCE. RATHER, NON-SUBSCRIBERS' CHILDREN WOULD BE PLACED
ON WAITING LIST (PRESUMABLY IN ORDER OF PAYMENT OF FEES) FOR
ANY EXTRA SEATS AVAILABLE AFTER ALL SUBSCRIBERS' NEEDS TAKEN
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CARE OF.

3. IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE AT LEAST PRIMARY SCHOOL FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR EMBASSY STAFF. MUSCAT ENGLISH

SPEAKING SCHOOL ONLY GOES THROUGH AGE 11, BUT HIS CURRENTLY SATIFIES OUR NEEDS SINCE ONLY THREE SCHOOL AGED DEPENDENTS ARE ACCOMODATED. THIS, OF COURSE, MIGHT CHANGE WITH ROUTINE PERSONNEL TRANSFERS. THERE ARE NO OTHER SCHOOLS IN IMMEDIATE MUSCAT AREA USING ENGLISH AS LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION.

4. WITH FOREGOING IN MIND, IT WOULD SEEM THAT ONLY WAY TO ASSURE THAT EMBASSY'S NEEDS ARE MET IS TO "SUBSCRIBE." IF THIS IS FEASIBLE, R.O. 1000 LUMP SUM GRANT APPEARS PREFERABLE TO INTEREST-FREE LOAN OF LARGER AMOUNT. DEPENDING ON NEEDS OF DCM'S REPLACEMENT, EMBASY PROPOSES "SUBSCRIBING" TO AS MANY SEATS AS WE WILL HAVE STUDENTS NEXT SEPTEMBER. ALTHOUGH COSTLY, THIS STILL WOULD BE FAR MORE SATISFACTORY AND POSSIBLY CHEAPER THAN PROSPECT OF HAVING TO ARRANGE AWAY-FROM-POST EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

5. SCHOOL BOARD HAS REQUESTED RESPONSE BY THIRD WEEK IN MAY. ALTHOUGH THIS TIMING A BIT UNREALISTIC, WE WOULD APPREICATE EARLY REACTION FROM DEPARTMENT. AMBASSAYBR WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATION FOR WEEK BEGINING MAY 25. HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET THOSE DEALING WITH OVERSEAS SCHOOLS. IF SUCH MEETING DESIRED, PLEASE ARRANGE THROUGH PAUL MOLINEAUX OF NEA/ARP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MUSCAT00630
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760200-0015
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760525/aaaaavpf.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OPR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by mendozsm>; APPROVED <07 DEC 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OVERSEAS SCHOOLS: NEW FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUSCAT ENGLISH-SPEAKING SCHOOL
TAGS: ASCH, MU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006